

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

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25X1 SUBJECT Communist Control of the Rumanian Educational System

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1. The Rumanian Communist regime has undertaken to distort for its own ends the content of courses of study given at all educational levels. An attempt has been made, for example, to omit from courses in Rumanian history all factual material that could be construed as unfavorable to the USSR, stressing only those events and dates that are favorable to its interests. Factual material favorable to the Rumanian point of view as contrasted to that of the USSR is simply ignored. Dates of historical events capable of being interpreted against the USSR that are too important to be ignored are refused to in general and vague factions. National and political leaders whose activities cannot be given a "democratic" interpretation are ignored or given no more than casual mention. Rumanian personalities too prominent to be omitted are slurred as "enemies of the people" and paid servants of foreign interests. History courses are now filled with descriptions of the lives and activities of unknown individuals, often foreigners, who are described as having fought for the good of the people.
2. Leading figures of Rumanian literature and art are ignored or accused of friendship for the land-owning class. In their stead there have been introduced a host of unimportant writers who are said to have described "the sufferings and misery of the people". The Rumanian painter, Grigorescu, is looked upon with deep disfavor and only his poorest works are displayed, because of his life long association with the wall-to-de classes, from which milieu he chose many of his subjects. His paintings are criticized as showing the evil effects of his association with the upper class which, it is said, selected for him his models and subjects.
3. Only vague mention is given to the latin origin of the Rumanian language, which is described as a Slavic tongue that has succumbed to latin influence. Emphasis is placed, on the other hand, on every affinity of Rumanian art, customs, and language with those of the Slavs. Russian history and literature are taught in considerable more detail than Rumanian history. Russian language is a compulsory subject.
4. At all educational levels an hour daily is devoted to "politics", which is merely Communist propaganda. Even the small children cannot avoid the daily reading of Scanteia. Through discussing of material in Scanteia the teacher is able to discover the political atmosphere of a child's home, since the material will have been commented upon by the adults of the family. One

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fourteen-year-old child of a middle-class family was given for his home work the preparation of a paper on the importance of Prime Minister Petru Groza's visit to Warsaw on the occasion of the signing of the Polish-Rumanian friendship pact. This assignment produced consternation in the family since the child could not write the paper without adult help.

5. Students are chosen for admission to schools on the basis of their parents' social class. Teachers and professors have been ordered to assist students of worker or peasant origin by giving easy questions in examinations and passing them with high grades while using opposite methods to hinder those of middle-class origin. Examination grades given by professors are not definitive; they are revised by a commission composed of Party members which also looks into the social origins of the students.
6. School fees are utilized to discriminate against students of the middle-class origin. Fees for the children of physicians, members of the free professions, and middle-class parents vary from 30,000 to 250,000 lei yearly. If one of these students by chance can pay the fee assessed, at the end of the school year he is ordered to pay an examination fee set so high that he or his parents are unable to make the payment.
7. Students are watched by student committees which keep careful record of their scholastic and extra-curricular activities. Each member of a student committee is responsible for the conduct of students under the supervision of his group. Members of student committees visit students in their homes and report on the environment, the family and students use of leisure time, books read, and any other items of interest. Personnel of these committees are in their turn supervised by the professors.

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